



Statement of Senator Dianne Feinstein on Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling
April 19, 2005

Washington, DC – At a hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) today expressed her continued opposition to oil and gas drilling off the California coast. The following is the text of her prepared statement:

“Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing on the Outer Continental Shelf. As you know, my State is almost unified in its opposition to lifting the moratoria on drilling the Outer Continental Shelf.

Governor Schwarzenegger has publicly opposed offshore oil drilling and has called for the federal government to buy back the remaining 36 undeveloped federal offshore oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of central California.

California’s Resources Secretary, Mike Chrisman, the Secretary of California Environmental Protection Agency, Alan Lloyd, and the Lieutenant Governor, Cruz Bustamante, have all been on record opposing any effort to lift the Congressional moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing activities.

Californians are all too familiar with the consequences of off-shore drilling. An oil spill in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara killed thousands of birds, as well as dolphins, seals, and other animals. We know this could happen again.

A healthy coast is vital to California’s economy and our quality of life. Ocean-dependent industry is estimated to contribute \$17 billion to California each year.

Californians have spoken loud and clear that they do not want drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf. Given the strong opposition to lifting the moratoria, we should focus on how to maximize our current energy supplies by deploying the most energy efficient technologies, and increasing our use of renewable energy technologies.”

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